



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 4/2/2024

New Business

Department: Parks & Recreation

Presenter(s): Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director

Contact(s): Allison Dains, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP) Grant - Deaverview

Brief Summary: On April 18, 2023, the Board passed a resolution which declared its intent to explore creating a county park or preserve of the Deaverview property for passive recreation and educational opportunities. This resolution also directed staff to partner with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) on seeking state and federal funding for the acquisition of the approximately 346-acre property, as well as complete due diligence on the property at the appropriate time. There will be an overview of the Deaverview Mountain project and the opportunity to apply for federal funding through the **Outdoor** Recreation Legacy Program Grant (ORLP) for land acquisition of the property.

SAHC was awarded approximately \$4.7 million through the Land and Water Fund for the acquisition of the property, at a total cost of approximately \$8.8 million. These funds can be leveraged as the 1:1 match of ORLP.

Though the April 2023 resolution provided direction for collaborative exploratory support, it did not commit the County to the aforementioned grant requirements. Additionally, the ORLP grant cycle timeline, as illustrated below, has changed, and necessitates a commitment sooner than originally anticipated.

- Proposal submittal is due - April 30, 2024
- Approval to submit grant application - November 2024
- Application deadline - November 2025
- To leverage the LWF funds an application must be submitted this cycle as the option to purchase the land expires in March 2026, before the next award cycle.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Discuss the project and provide direction for staff.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: